

PROPOSED REQUEST TO THE ECONOMY AND EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE  
DRAFT ONLY  
LACCW

Mr. Isaac Barcelona  
Chair, Economy & Efficiency Committee  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Suite 163  
Los Angeles, CA 90012-2713

February 2, 2016

Chairman Barcelona,

One of the greatest characteristics of the County of Los Angeles is the diversity of our residents. Angelenos come from every corner of the globe and speak hundreds of languages, adding to the vast potential for our county to grow in the areas of commerce and innovation and increases our ability to have compassion, gain a world view and think beyond our own upbringings.

While our county is a diverse collection of people and ideas, unfortunately the men and women appointed to county commissions do not always reflect our communities. As the Los Angeles County Commission for Women, we are especially concerned about the lack of parity when it comes to the number of women serving on commissions. In an initial review of commission websites, it appears that the many of commission, women appointed to serve comprise well below 50%.

Certainly, it is not the intention of the members of the Board of Supervisors to lack of gender balance on county commissions. Supervisors appoint commissioners often without knowing the genders of serving commissioners. This is why we believe that it would benefit the county to have the Economy & Efficiency Committee work with the Los Angeles Commission for Women to provide data and recommendations to Supervisors to improve gender balance on our commissions.

Specifically, we would like to ask the Economy & Efficiency Commission to take the lead in gathering data about the gender makeup of each of the commission in Los Angeles County with the assistance of the office of the CEO. Additionally, we would like to ask that the E&E Commission to provide recommendations on how to reach gender equity on LA County commissions. This may include proactively providing a current list of commissions and a report of the gender makeup of the commission to Supervisors when a vacancy opens or when they have an opportunity to appoint a commissioner. Just this understanding would allow the Supervisors to make a more informed decision about whom they appoint, when seen in the context of the Commission as a whole.

We know that when women are at the table, whether it be on a commission, on a corporate board or in elected office, that discussions are expanded, new ideas are discussed and there is a more collaborative working relationship. We hope that you will join us to increase awareness of the make-up of our LA County Commissions. In the future, there may be opportunities to expand this work, to look at ethnic diversity, age, sexual orientation and years of service on the commission. For now, we are asking to start with gender and begin the process of creating greater transparency and awareness of our Commission system and continued focus on a diverse, representative commission system.

Many thanks, [SIGNATURES OF LACCW]